

(1) Situation in ...

desertions, poor logistics support, and weak leadership," Coats said. Coats said the overall situation in Afghanistan would very likely continue to deteriorate, even if international support is sustained. Endemic state weaknesses, the government's political fragility, deficiencies of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), Taliban persistence, and regional interference would remain key impediments to improvement, he said. Kabul's political dysfunction and ineffectiveness would almost certainly be the greatest vulnerability to stability in 2017, he added. ANSF performance would probably worsen due to a combination of Taliban operations, ANSF combat casualties, desertions, poor logistics support, and weak leadership, he said. The ANSF would almost certainly remain heavily dependent on foreign military and financial support to sustain themselves and preclude their collapse. "Although the Taliban was unsuccessful in seizing a provincial capital in 2016, it effectively navigated its second leadership transition in two years following the death of its former chief, Mansur, and is likely to make gains in 2017," Coats said. "The fighting will also continue to threaten US personnel, allies, and partners, particularly in Kabul and urban population centers," he said. "ISIS's Khorasan branch (ISIS-K) — which constitutes ISIS's most significant presence in South Asia — will probably remain a low-level developing threat to Afghan stability as well as to US and Western interests in the region in 2017," Coats said. (Pajhwok)

(2) Final Decision...

About Afghanistan, he said they had recently completed their regular review of the training mission. "Our military commanders have asked for a few thousand more troops. We are currently in the process of force generation and I expect final decisions to be taken next month." He said nearly 13,000 troops from NATO and partner countries contributed to the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. "Training the Afghan forces to secure their country and deny safe haven to international terrorists," he said. He said other major topics of the meeting were burden sharing and meeting a 2014 pledge to stop the cuts, gradually increase and move towards spending two percent of GDP on defence within a decade. "We have also transformed our approach to fighting terrorism. In Afghanistan, we have moved from a combat role to a training role. This has shown us the value of supporting local forces in their fight against terrorism."

The day-long summit is bringing together heads of state and government in Brussels from all the 28 allied countries. "It will send a strong message of unity and solidarity."

About the attack in Manchester, the NATO chief said children, young people and their families were deliberately targeted in the barbaric attack.

"Our meeting will show that all NATO allies remain united in the fight against terrorism in all its forms."

He said countering terrorism was a complex challenge and it requires a coordinated response.

"From our law enforcement agencies, our intelligence services, our judicial systems, and sometimes our military. So it is important that we use all the tools that we have to the full." (Reuters)

(3) Iran's ...

on International Security. "Implementation of comprehensive agreements between the two countries needs continued vigilance to prevent the third countries' misconducts," he said.

Shamkhani also announced that Tehran, Moscow and Kabul have agreed to hold a joint meeting of their national security advisors in Afghanistan in the near future.

During the meeting, the two high-ranking officials also discussed mutual cooperation in the fields of economy, security and refugees affairs as well as issues related to border waters and fight against drug trafficking.

In a relevant development earlier this month, Iran and Afghanistan, as two big neighbors in the volatile Middle-East region, underscored the necessity for the further reinvigoration of their security cooperation.

The issue was raised in a meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister

Mohammad Javad Zarif and Afghan National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar in Kabul.

During the meeting, Zarif described Iran and Afghanistan as two friendly and brotherly states with common cultures, and stressed further development of ties and cooperation between the two countries. (FNA)

(4) Lives of ...

diseases to spread while health care and nutritious food are insufficient to meet children's needs, it said.

"Violence is crippling health systems in conflict-affected countries and threatens children's very survival," said Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF's director for the Middle East and North Africa.

"Beyond the bombs, bullets and explosions, countless children are dying in silence from diseases that could easily be prevented and treated," he added.

The glaring figures reflect the enormity of the disaster. According to UNICEF, Yemen tops the list, with 9.6 million children in need, followed by Syria, Iraq, Sudan, the Gaza Strip and Libya.

Yemen's two-year conflict has pushed the impoverished country to the brink of famine, with widespread severe acute malnutrition among children. (AP)

(5) Police ...

another one and the man confessed they were living in house belonging to a man named Mawlawi, we seized their weapons, flag and explosives," said Frogg.

Frogg's comments come just days after the raid on a guesthouse in PD7 in which an Afghan guard and a German woman were killed and a Finnish woman was kidnapped.

In another incident, on Tuesday night, unknown gunmen opened fire on the vehicle of a former MP Najibullah Kabuli after they detonated an IED against his vehicle. Kabuli sustained serious injuries in the attack.

"There was an attempt against my life last night, but police came and helped me, I don't know if they were trying to kidnap me or kill me," said Kabuli.

According to Frogg, such attacks are planned by the Taliban who are living on the outskirts of the city.

"We have started our assessments to find out the nature of the incident," said MoI spokesman Najib Danish.

"We call on the officials to provide us with security and investigate the case seriously," said a resident of Kabul Ibrahim Alkozai.

Earlier this month, Kabul police also seized dozens of weapons and suicide vests from a private school in Khushal Khan area in PD5 of Kabul.

Based on reports, in the past six years, 114 suicide attacks have been carried out in Kabul, which have killed dozens of civilians and wounded hundreds more. (Tolonews)

(6) Trump's Budget...

Defense Department explained that the \$700-million request is an addition to the \$814 million proposed in fiscal year 2017 Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) document to begin transitioning the Afghan aviation fleet.

The ASFF plan included 53 UH-60 helicopters, 30 armed MD-530F helicopters, six A-29 attack aircraft and five AC-208s. (Sputnik)

(7) Karzai Met ...

Afghanistan. Karzai also rejected allegations against Russia regarding the supply of weapons and support to the Taliban group.

In an interview with the Interfax news agency last month, Karzai said the American officials are accusing Moscow of supporting the Taliban and supply them with weapons but such allegations are not true.

The top U.S. general in Europe said late in March this year that he had seen Russian influence on Afghan Taliban insurgents growing and raised the possibility that Moscow was helping supply the militants, whose reach is expanding in southern Afghanistan.

Speaking during a hearing at the Senate Armed Services Committee, Gen. Scaparrotti said "I've seen the influence of Russia of late — increased influence in terms of association and perhaps even supply to the Taliban." (KP)

(8) Atmar Meets ...

Modi and President Ashraf Ghani on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in June in Kazakhstan.

Later, he also met with his Pakistani counterpart Nasser Khan Janjua and said they discussed issues around the Durand Line, such as "the firing of rockets by Pakistani military and the building of military bases on Afghan soil".

Atmar said via twitter that "besides discussing regional security and political issues, the two national security advisors also discussed ways to block supply routes of terrorists."

In his third meeting of the day, he met with the secretary of Iran's supreme national Security Council, Ali Shamkhani.

Atmar said they held "in depth talks about bilateral relations and economic cooperation, security issues and curbing drug trafficking on the border."

The two sides also emphasized the need to expand economic and political ties and discussed ways to further ease transit between Afghanistan and Iran.

In addition, Atmar and Shamkhani discussed matters regarding the proper management of natural resources between the two countries — particularly that of water resources.

Atmar said: "President Ghani had a comprehensive plan on a regional level for water management which could be effective for proper use of water resources."

The 8th International Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues started in Zavidovo, near Moscow, on Wednesday with representatives from over 90 countries in attendance.

The two-day conference, which has been arranged by the Russian Security Council, will see delegates tackle issues such as cyber and intelligence security, and regional and global threats and challenges among others. (Tolonews)

(9) Russia ...

Iran are funding the Taliban and other militant groups in the country.

"The Russians have been in contact with the Taliban militants since 2004 or 2005. It is not correct to say that they (Russians) engaged in ties with the Taliban in recent times (only), but now these relations have been clarified. Pakistanis, Iranians and the Russians are jointly supporting the terrorists, however the Russians do their work through Iran, for instance sending the Taliban weapons and money," said Raziq.

U.S director of defense intelligence Lieutenant General Vincent R. Stewart said this week in Congress that despite signs of Russia's support for the Taliban, U.S officials have not found physical evidence to back these claims.

On Wednesday NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg also said the alliance had heard reports to this effect but they too did not have proof.

The Afghan government has also said on a number of occasions in the past that they do not have evidence to back these claims.

The Russian embassy's statement further said that Moscow once again declares that allegations of its support to the Taliban "does not match the reality (of the situation) and are merely unsubstantiated claims".

This coincides with the Afghan National Security Adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar's meeting with his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval on the sidelines of a summit in Moscow, the national security council said in a statement.

The NSC said the two sides held talks on further expanding bilateral, political and security relations. The statement added that the two sides also held talks on the establishment of a comprehensive plan to support and strengthen the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

Atmar arrived in Moscow on Tuesday, heading a delegation of high-ranking Afghan officials. Officials from 25 countries are meeting Tuesday and Wednesday at the Russia Security Conference, which will focus on countering terrorism in the region. (Tolonews)

(10) First Leather...

a good news as he insisted on the factory officials to make sure that the products are produced with a high quality.

Insisting on further development of industrial park in Herat province, Mr. Rahimi said another industrial park will be opened in this province in the near future.

According to the local officials, around 25 manufacturing firms have started operations in Herat industrial park since last one year. (KP)

(11) Use of ...

coalition troops are deployed, mostly to train and support Afghan forces.

The additional troops could also be used to ramp-up air support, which has often been seen as decisive in preventing the total collapse of some Afghan defensive positions and relies on trained air controllers on the ground.

The last time more weapons were dropped in a single month was August 2012, when nearly 80,000 U.S. troops were battling the Taliban and two years before former President Barack Obama declared an end to the combat mission in Afghanistan.

Since then, however, Afghan forces have struggled to hold back a resurgent Taliban insurgency. Islamic State's small local affiliate, sometimes known as Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K), has been active since 2015.

Last month the U.S. military dropped one of its largest conventional weapons ever used in combat, a 21,600-lb (9,797 kg) GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, on suspected Islamic State militants in eastern Afghanistan.

The Air Force data, however, shows that while unusually large, that bomb was only part of a greatly expanded air campaign.

As of the end of April, Air Force warplanes had released 917 weapons, compared with 1,337 in all of 2016, and 947 in 2015, the first year of the "non-combat" mission in Afghanistan. (Reuters)

(12) Bamyan...

"We have assured the airline that the issue would be addressed in accordance with the law and the airline can continue its flights," he said.

Lawmaker Abdul Rahman Shahidani missed the flight at the Kabul International Airport and then phoned his supporters in Bamyan not to allow the plane to land.

A number of Shahidani supporters laid stones on the runway and the Kam Air plane with 30 passengers onboard was forced to turn back to Kabul.

Kam Air officials claimed the company suffered a \$10,000 loss and a number of their flights faced problems as a result of the plane's return.

The company's director said their study showed that the Bamyan airport was not safe for flights. (Pajhwok)

(13) Forcing ...

were involved in the incident. But his colleague from central Daikundi province Nasrullah Sadiqi told the house that Shahdani and his relatives had stopped the plane from landing on the airport and the act was treason which should be investigated.

He demanded a thorough investigation into the incident by the administrative commission of the lower house.

Naseema Niyazi, a lawmaker from Helmand province, said: "A lawmaker who himself reaches the airport late then puts the lives of dozens of people in danger."

She said the lawmaker had committed a treason for which he should be punished.

The governor of Bamyan has said the airport in charge, police chief of 1st municipality district and six border policemen were being investigated in connection with the incident.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy regretted the incident and said representatives of the people should not use their power for illegal activities. He ordered the administrative commission to strictly investigate the issue. (Pajhwok)

(14) AREU Report..

was in attendance, welcomed the study.

"Any effort to improve governance in Afghanistan should start with serious assessment and evaluation," she said.

However, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations, which were both criticized in the report, had mixed reactions.

"Unfortunately, your (AREU's) findings are incorrect. You should have asked the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations if you did not have the opportunity to at least study and review the websites and activities of the ministry," Refugees and Repatriations Minister Sayed Husain Alemi Balkhi said.

"The situation which I have experienced in the past month is far worse than it (was mentioned in the report). The Ministry of Mines is grappling with a lack of leadership — not only on one level but on

many levels," said Nargis Nehan, acting minister of mines.

AREU has suggested government should take practical steps to address the problems faced by refugees instead of "introducing strategies" for this purpose.

Regarding the mining sector, the report has suggested that the extraction of minerals at mines should be handled professionally. It has also warned about the possibility of "an increase in corruption" in the mining revenue collection system. (Tolonews)

(15) Congressmen ...

16 years being in Afghanistan we've spent over \$800 billion, we've had over 2,000 Americans killed and about 30,000 wounded," Jones said, while introducing the measure.

"I don't know how many Afghan people have been killed, not the Taliban — they are our enemy — but innocent civilians, and it's time that we either decide are we going to be there any longer or if we've decided 16 years is enough." (Pajhwok)

(16) WHO Head ...

saved thanks to WHO's effort to fight tuberculosis since 2000, with the number of child deaths dropping below 6 million for the first time in 2015.

Chan also welcomed the global community's pledge to prioritize universal health coverage as the foundation upon which to bridge persisting gaps between countries and regions.

Despite these achievements, which have contributed to improving public health conditions and extending life expectancy worldwide, Chan warned that the international community is facing complex and unprecedented health challenges. These challenges are due to a fundamental shift in public health, where chronic noncommunicable diseases have overtaken infectious diseases as the biggest killers in the world. (Xinhua)

(17) NATO ...

Speaking ahead of NATO talks with President Donald Trump Thursday, Stoltenberg said stepping up funding in Europe by 40 percent would mean more military exercises, training, weapons and ammunition, and infrastructure investment.

Trump's 2018 budget will see an increase of \$1.4 billion in spending in Europe.

It will also help increase the presence of rotating U.S. forces and assist Washington in fulfilling its commitments to the NATO military alliance. (AP)

(18) 15,000 ...

and said that several incumbent cabinet ministers and senior officials of Afghanistan have been educated in the Iranian universities.

He pointed to the chaotic situation in Afghanistan over past years, and said that Afghanistan had been under pressures by unfair was imposed against 'us without our interference, which caused a big lag in Afghanistan, including in academic sector'.

He requested Iran to support training students program in specialized majors for Afghan students. (IRNA)

(19) Woman, ...

Provinces with most drug crimes in the Sawar month: 14 cases of drugs were registered in Kabul during the month, five in Nangarhar and four in Herat.

Provinces having no drug crimes: Logar, Khost, Daikundi, Nuristan, Zabul, Wardak, Takhar, Sar-i-Pul, Samangan, Uruzgan, Laghman Kunduz, Kunar, Kapisa, Jawzjan, Ghor, Faryab, Farah, Bamyan, Balkh, and Badghis were the provinces where no such incident happened. (Pajhwok)

(20) Highway...

been parked away from the road to prevent more traffic problems. However, provincial police spokesman Zabihullah Shuja said the Taliban attacks had been pushed back and the highway reopened for traffic.

The Pajhwok reporter, who visited the area at 8am, said that the route was blocked, leaving a large number of vehicles stranded. (Pajhwok)

(21) Afghan Man ...

the statement added. The Federal Prosecutor's Office in its statement also added that Omaid fled Afghanistan after the Taliban group asked him to carry out more attacks, using the Iran, Turkey, Greece, and Austria route to reach to Germany.

(22) Afghan Cricket...

matches at the Warner Park stadium in Basseterre, St Kitts, from June 2, before moving on to the island of St Lucia. The ODIs will be played at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet in St Lucia from June 9. The Afghan national team beat the West Indies in their match at last year's T20 World Cup — however, the West Indies went on to win the championships. The West Indies cricket team, popularly known as the Windies, is a multi-national cricket team representing the West Indies Cricket Board, a confederation of 15 mainly Caribbean countries. (Tolonews)

suspected in a deadly attack on Afghan and US forces was by the authorities in Germany late in the month of March.

The militant identified as Abdullah was arrested from Bavaria on suspicion of having role behind the attack on Afghan and US forces convoy that left at least sixteen people dead.

Abdullah had joined the group in 2002 and apparently took the command of the local fighters from his father in 2004. (KP)

(23) Ex-MP ...

attempts have been made by certain circles to carry out an attack against him.

The Afghan intelligence said earlier in 2012 that a group of suspects were arrested as they were planning to assassinate Kabuli. (KP)

sons of the soil. However, he accused the government of undermining their morale. He alleged a few individuals, who could not called loyal Afghan citizens, aided the Taliban in stepping up their activities against the national security forces.

He urged the international community to keep a close eye on how foreign assistance was being spent. International aid must be utilised transparently, he stressed. (Pajhwok)

(24) Governor ...

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that it is currently not considered opportune at the very, very, very highest Turkish level to conduct political talks with the German parliamentary side in Turkey," Roth told reporters in Berlin. She described the incident as a "political provocation." (AP)

which expires on July 15 after being extended "to preserve our democracy" — referring to France's just-ended presidential election and upcoming legislative polls. The president's office earlier said he was seeking to extend the state of emergency until November 1. The measures allow security forces to monitor suspects and carry out searches without warrants, place suspects under house arrest, and ban public gatherings. (AFP)

(25) German Parliament..

rental deal was legal. Yet he acknowledged the current context raises "legitimate questions."

"what wasn't illegal before is not acceptable today," Castaner said in reference to hiring family members. "We need to establish clear rules that will apply to everyone, as soon as possible." (AP)

(26) With Threat...

and no single country can deal with this problem alone, thus we need to work closely and collaborate in order to strengthen and enhance our capacity to address such a challenge." Khamsy said. (Xinhua)

the threat of Islamist terrorism. He has since softened the criticism but still wants NATO to join the anti-IS coalition itself as an important gesture of support for the campaigns in Syria and Iraq.

All 28 allies have joined the coalition as individual countries and if NATO became a member, that would significantly boost coordination in the war against IS in Syria and Iraq, Stoltenberg recalled. He said the "brutal attack" claimed by IS showed the terror threat remained ever present. (AFP)

(27) Macron Ally..

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(28) ASEAN, Dialogue ...

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(29) NATO must ...

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